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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/855,380 05/13/97 CHILTON

Ex 3/17/01

EXAMINER

BRUNNEN, HOPPER, CHILTON AND LIDDELL
11300 EDISON PLAZA
TULSA, OK 74104-1537

ART UNIT 2410 PAPER NUMBER

3

DATE MAILED:

04/13/98

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8-13-97
- This action is FINAL.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

- Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
- received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

- Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892
- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2
- Interview Summary, PTO-413
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

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1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In the specification on page 8 line 11 "40B" is not labeled in Fig. 3.

Appropriate correction is required.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chilton et al. in view of Stoyell et al.. Chilton et al. disclose (see col. 2 line 44 through col. 5 line 60) a fuel filter assembly substantially as claimed. The claims differ from Chilton et al. by reciting the assembly includes an outer layer of extruded mesh. Stoyell et al. disclose (see col. 5 line 44 through col. 7 line 60, and col. 18 line 54 through col. 20 line 41) that it is known in the art to utilize an outer layer of extruded mesh to improve distribution of fluid along the surface of a filter medium. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the assembly of Chilton et al. by including an outer layer extruded mesh in view of the teachings of Stoyell et al., to improve distribution of fuel along the surface of the filter assembly. The specific types of filaments and bonds used to form the extruded mesh would have been an obvious matter of engineering design to

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one skilled in the art, depending on the specific fuel treated and results desired, absent a sufficient showing of unexpected results.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter A. Hruskoci whose telephone number is (703) 308-3839. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Jay Woo, can be reached on (703) 308-3793. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-7718.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0651.



Peter A. Hruskoci
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

P. Hruskoci
April 7, 1998